10-23
(June 194.)

# UNITED STATES
# DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
# NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone NATIONAL PARK

FILE NO. 207-02.3

## SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY REPORT

## MAY 1951

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ✓ | ROGERS | |
| ✓ | JOHNSTON | |
| ✓ | JOFFE | |
| | ANDERSON | |
| | STANTON | |
| | FULLER | |
| | PROPER | |
| | HOTCHKISS | |
| ✓ | MATTSON | |
| ✓ | CONDON | |
| ✓ | SKINNER | |
| ✓ | EVANS | |
| | CHAPMAN | |
| | JAY | |
| | KOWSKI | |
| ✓ | KITTAMS | |
| ✓ | WOHLBRANDT | |
| | ROBINSON | |
| | WIGGINS | |
| | McMULLIN | |


**IMPORTANT**

This file constitutes a part of the official records of the National Park Service and should not be separated or papers withdrawn without express authority of the official in charge. All Files should be returned promptly to the File Room. Officials and employees will be held responsible for failure to observe these rules, which are necessary to protect the integrity of the official records.

NEWTON B. DRURY,
*Director.*


U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16—22371

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK
YELLOWSTONE PARK, WYO.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Summary of the May 1951 Monthly Narrative Report for
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK


| | | Page |
|---|---|---|
| WEATHER: | Warm. Snow melting. Maximum 73°, minimum 26°. | 1 |
| SPECIAL ACTIVITIES: | Rogers to Bozeman; to Missouri-Columbia meeting; brought Asst. Secretary Warne into park; to Jackson with Baker; talked to Wyo. Hotel Ass'n meeting. Johnstons to California due death of sister; attended Missouri-Columbia meeting. Mattson returned from Omaha; to Jackson Hole. Carr to Helena. Montana Power Co. power Gardiner to Mammoth. 8th grade graduation. Gardiner high school Baccalaureate here in Chapel. Ice out of Lake 24th. Fishing season opened; streams muddy. | 1 - 2 |
| INSPECTIONS: | James Lloyd, E. S. Luce, Frank Childs, Fred Dickison, Adolph Opalka, Paul Berger, Elliott Davis, Chas. Smith, James Evenden, V. L. Edwards, C. T. Wright, Wm. Warne, Howard Baker, Conrad Wirth, Paul Franke, Edward Freeland, V. F. Carbine, Gladwyn Young, A. V. Shannon, in. | 2 |
| IN-SERVICE TRAINING: | Weekly News. Protection Division Conference. Road Foremen Conference. | 3 |
| PUBLICITY: | New fishing regulations. Y.P.Co. A & B Folders received. 149,000 broadsides on hand. | 3 |
| PLANS, MAPS AND SURVEYS: | C. T. Wright, U.S.P.H.S., reviewed Lake sewage field design data. Rowe with road striping crew and starting construction projects. Melvin Thuring, Army Engineers, to fill Engineer GS-9 position. | 3 |
| MAINTENANCE: | Snow plowing in park completed 26th; opening dates. Guard rail, oiling, sidewalk, & other crews. Slides. Cracking & spalling of Overhanging Cliff. Labor problem. Gas truck driven out and Adams grader received. | 3 - 4 |
| CONSTRUCTION: | Contractors on South Approach projects. Work at Canyon. Other projects listed. | 4 - 5 |
| RELIGIOUS SERVICES AND CHAPEL USE: | Sunday School. Church services. Gardiner high school Baccalaureate. Church Committee-Park County Ministerial Ass'n meet re schedule. Student ministers. | 6 |

| | | Page |
|---|---|---|
| CONCESSIONERS: | Demolition O.F. swimming pool. Accommodations opening dates. Y.P.Co. rates approved. Y.P.Co. offices moved to Mammoth. W. M. Nichols, John Nichols & H. B. Brown to park. Nurse at Old Faithful. Hamiltons arrive. Gasoline prices. | 5 |
| INTERPRETIVE SERVICES: | Watson presented program to Livingston school. Range Management students from Utah in; Condon talked to group. Programs by Condon to Society of Engineers at Butte, State N.F.F.E. meeting, & Absaroka Conservation Committee meeting here. Work on signs. Plans for summer program. | 7 |
| MUSEUM ACTIVITIES AND EXHIBITS: | Most exhibits opened. Mammoth museum opened; well attended. Cleanup of museum basement, storage, etc. Animals skulls loaned Franz Lipp for exhibit. | 7 |
| RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION: | Grizzly & cubs, antelope, elk, coyotes observed. Tom McHugh, Jackson Hole Wildlife Park, in re. bison. Old tree overhanging road near terraces removed. Elk calf photographed, grouse observed, swan observed, also moose incl. one with broken ear. Hot River near Mammoth temporarily changed color and temperature. Many bison seen. Rattlesnake seen at 6,300' elevation. Giant Geyser schedule; more frequent. | 8 - 10 |
| NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION: | Book sales stock. Alice Quist seasonal clerk. Power tools arrive. Nature Notes. | 10 |
| INCREASE OR DECREASE IN TRAVEL: | 30,310 people in 9,329 cars; 24,051 in 8,396 cars last May; 26% increase. Earlier road openings. | 10 |
| VISITORS: | Franz Lipp, Wm. Strube, Wesley A. D'Ewart. | 10 |
| RANGER SERVICE: | Conference. Field stations manned, trails, fish planting, etc. | 11 |
| WILDLIFE AND FISH FISH: | Regulations re fly fishing some waters. Fish planted. Wm. Dunn arrived at Hatchery. Dr. Cope investigations. | 11 |
| BEARS: | 4 damages, 1 injury, 2 bears destroyed. | 12 |
| RODENT CONTROL: | 652 ground squirrels, 18 marmots destroyed. | 12 |
| ELK: | Many seen. Elk calf tagging by Fish & Game. | 12 |
| FOREST FIRE PROTECTION: | New Smokejumper positions. Fire training. Fire control aid declinations. | 12 |




Yellowstone [illegible]

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2013

http://archive.org/details/superintendentso00uns_u5c

| | | Page |
|---|---|---|
| BLISTER RUST CONTROL: | Funds for repair to building crushed by snow. 6 pumps purchased. | 12 |
| TRAILS: | 4 men working. Work to increase after July 1. Labor problem. | 13 |
| GROUNDS: | Fences being removed around shrubbery. Condie transferred to Mammoth grounds. | 13 |
| BUILDING FIRE PROTECTION: | Field station & concessioner inspections. Defective extinguishers. Y.P.Co. Fire Marshal arrived. Eastman Evacuator not yet received. | 13 |
| ACCIDENTS: | 5 auto accidents; 1 caused by tree falling on car. | 14 |
| LAW ENFORCEMENT: | No cases. Commissioner returned to park. | 14 |
| DEATHS: | Mrs. Josephine Davis, sister of Asst. Supt. Johnston, passed away. | 14 |
| BIRTHS: | Son born to Mr. & Mrs. Louis Gunzel. Twins, boy & girl, born to Mr. & Mrs. Lemely Oates. | 14 |
| MARRIAGES: | Chief Ranger Curtis K. Skinner and Miss Elizabeth H. Emery married. | 14 |
| PERSONNEL: | Seasonal office and storehouse employees listed. Several rangers & naturalists on duty. Shirley Wohlbrandt, seas. Clerk-Steno., resigned. Louis Gunzel, Carl Gruener, Thomas Schoder perm. Park Rangers, GS-5. Transfer Charles Fuller to Chief Clerk, Carlsbad. Wm. Walton, seasonal Foreman, retired. Boris Vladimiroff transferred to Bur. Land Management, Robert Luntey to Wash. Office. Frank Kowski to transfer to Wash. Office & Almon Dewing to Shop Foreman, Mt. Rainier. | 14-15 |
| MISCELLANEOUS: | F.E.U. meeting; talk by Asst. Regional Director Lloyd. Spring dance. N.F.F.E. State Convention. A.F.G.E. meeting. | 15 |




Yellowstone Park, Wyoming

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK
YELLOWSTONE PARK, WYO.

Report 1ml

FFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

June 8, 1951

Memorandum

To: The Director

From: Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park

Subject: Monthly Report for May 1951

Following is the report of activities for Yellowstone National Park during the month of May 1951.

Weather Conditions. The weather was generally warm during the month which facilitated the melting of snow and road opening operations. The snow also disappeared from the lower range elevations allowing the game to secure plenty of forage. The maximum temperature recorded was 73° on the 22nd and the minimum reading of 26° was obtained of the 29th. Total precipitation for the month was 1.77". Fourteen days were clear, nine partly cloudy and eight cloudy.

Special Activities. Superintendent Rogers made trips to the Bozeman library in connection with his project covering the legislative history of the parks on May 1, 10 and 15, on which latter date he also conferred with the District Forest Supervisor in connection with the program for the Joint Missouri and Columbia Inter-Agency Meeting. On May 24 he went to Bozeman to attend this meeting, remaining overnight. The next day he brought Assistant Secretary Warne into the park to Old Faithful and returned him to West Yellowstone, proceeding then to Jackson, Wyoming, for the night with Regional Director Baker. On the morning of May 26 he talked before the Wyoming Hotel Association Meeting in Jackson on "The Advantage of Yellowstone National Park to the Hotels of Wyoming" and returned to Mammoth that night.

Assistant Superintendent Johnston left the park on May 7 for Altadena, California, where he was called due to the death of his sister, Mrs. Josephine Davis. He returned on the 12th. On May 23 he went to Bozeman to attend the Montana Natural Resources Council Meeting and the Joint Missouri and Columbia Inter-Agency Meeting, returning to the park on the 25th.

Resident Landscape Architect Mattson returned to the park on May 7 from assignment in the Omaha Office. He went to Omaha on April 28. He also made a trip to the Jackson Hole on May 24 and 25.

Fiscal Accounting Clerk (Cashier) Robert J. Carr made a trip to Helena on May 11 to confer with the Montana State Board of Equalization and Division of Disbursement personnel in connection with the gasoline tax.

On May 3 the Montana Power Company turned power into its new line between Gardiner and Mammoth. This was the first time that the Montana Power Company had brought power into Yellowstone National Park.

The Eighth Grade Graduation Exercises were held in the Canteen on the evening of May 17. The school graduated two students, Vernon Wright and Ronald White. The school term closed the next day, followed by a picnic.

Baccalaureate services for the Gardiner High School were held in the Mammoth Chapel on the evening of May 20. Rev. Warren Strain, Lutheran Minister from Livingston, delivered the sermon.

The ice went out of Yellowstone Lake this year on May 24, which was a week earlier than last year when it was reported that the ice went out on June 1.

The fishing season opened on May 30 as in former years but most of the streams were very high and muddy and conditions were not favorable for fly fishing. However, fishing was good in the various lakes at the beginning of the season.

Inspections. Assistant Regional Director James V. Lloyd, Region Two, in May 2, out May 8. Captain E. S. Luce, Superintendent, Custer Battlefield National Monument, in May 6, out 7. Frank W. Childs, Regional Forester, Region Two, and Fred F. Dickison, Soil Conservationist, Region Two, in May 7 to attend Protection Division Conference, out May 12. Mr. Childs returned again on May 30 and expected to leave June 1. Park Rangers Adolph Opalka and Paul Berger, Glacier National Park, and Elliott Davis and Charles Smith, Grand Teton National Park, in May 7 to attend the Protection Division Conference; out 12. James C. Evenden, Entomologist in Charge, Forest Insect Laboratory, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, in May 10 to talk at the Protection Division Conference; out 10. V. L. Edwards, Jr., Inspector (Personnel), Office of the Secretary, in North May 17 to review personnel management activities; out 19. C. T. Wright, Regional Engineer, U. S. Public Health Service, Denver, in May 22; out 22. William E. Warne, Assistant Secretary of Interior, in West Yellowstone May 25 and made trip to Old Faithful; out West Yellowstone 25. Howard W. Baker, Regional Director, Region Two, in May 27 enroute to Grand Teton National Park; returned from Teton May 26 and attended Absaroka Conservation Committee Meeting; out 27. Conrad L. Wirth, Associate Director, National Park Service, Washington, D. C., in

Yellowstone National Park

GRADUATION CLASS OF YELLOWSTONE PARK SCHOOL (1951)

Two students graduated on May 18, 1951, Vernon Wright (left) and Ronald White (right). Teacher, Dorothy Legg (center).

Photo by Watson

May 26; attended Absaroka Conservation Committee Meeting; out 27. Paul Franke, Assistant Chief Naturalist, National Park Service, Washington, D. C., in South May 26; attended Absaroka Conservation Committee Meeting on 27; out South 31. Edward D. Freeland, Superintendent, Grand Teton National Park, in South May 26; attended Absaroka Conservation Committee Meeting 27; out 27. W. F. Carbine, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C., in office May 28. Gladwyn E. Young, Chairman, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Missouri Basin Inter-Agency Committee, Lincoln, Nebraska, in office May 29. A. V. Shannon, Corps of Engineers, Omaha, Nebraska, in May 31.

In-Service Training. The Weekly Newsletter was issued each Thursday during the month to keep employees, concessioners and others currently informed on park happenings.

The Protection Division held its annual conference for Protection Division and other interested employees from May 7 through 11.

The annual road foreman conference was held at Mammoth May 25 at which time a careful review of operations, safety, equipment care, meeting of public, accidents, and other items were discussed.

Publicity. The new Fishing Regulations for 1951 were mimeographed on May 4 and copies were distributed throughout the immediate area.

The new "A" and "B" Folders for 1951 issued by the Yellowstone Park Company containing the rates were received May 4 and became available for immediate distribution.

A total of 149,000 Yellowstone broadsides for 1950 remained on hand at the end of the month.

Plans, Maps and Surveys. Mr. C. T. Wright, U. S. Public Health Service Engineer from Denver, went over the design data for the Lake main sewage disposal field during his visit here on May 22.

Assistant Engineer Rowe spent considerable time with the road striping crew and getting construction projects ready for operation.

Melvin A. Thuring, of the Army Engineers at Garrison Dam in North Dakota, has been recommended for the position of Engineer (Civil), GS-9, to succeed Robert S. Hursh who recently transferred to Crater Lake National Park.

Maintenance. All snow plowing operations were completed within the park on May 26. The Norris to Canyon and Lake sections

were opened to travel on May 15 and the Continental Divide road between Old Faithful and West Thumb was opened to travel on May 18. Cars started coming over the Sunlight Basin road between Cody and Cooke on May 18. The East and South Entrances were opened to travel on May 25 as scheduled. The Canyon to Tower Fall section, the last section to be plowed, was opened to traffic on May 28. Snow plows started opening the Cooke-Red Lodge Highway on May 14 and by the end of the month three SnoGos, one push plow and one grader were working on this highway. It is expected that it will be cleared by June 10.

Snow plowing operations found the snow softer than usual which made for fast plowing but numerous small breakdowns of equipment caused some delay. The snow crews worked six days a week in an attempt to meet the schedule for road openings. The new three-auger SnoGo was a great help in operations this year.

Maintenance crews were moved out as fast as roads were plowed out. Cleanup, patching, and rock and tree removal constituted most of the work during the month. A special crew for guard rail replacement operated out of Mammoth. A special oiling crew reprocessed four miles during the month between Mammoth and Gardiner and across the Lamar flats six miles beyond Tower Junction. A special sidewalk crew made repairs to sidewalks at Mammoth, Old Faithful and Canyon and 350 feet of prefabricated walk were placed in the thermal area at Norris Geyser Basin. Surface breakup has not been as serious as in the past few years but frost boils and temperature cracking is much worse. At the end of the month road crews were located at Mammoth, Madison, Gallatin, Thumb, Lake, South Forest, East Entrance, Canyon, Tower Fall, Northeast Entrance and Beartooth. An average of 90 men were employed on road maintenance during the month.

One large slide occurred between Canyon and Lake requiring replacement of 550 cubic yards of material. Several other rock slides of 15 to 40 cubic yards were cleaned up. Checking, cracking and spalling of Overhanging Cliff is more pronounced than usual and parking will be prohibited under the cliff this season.

The labor problem is getting quite serious and a large portion of the crews are 18 years old.

The new 2,500 gallon gasoline truck was driven out from Wisconsin and the new Adams grader was received during the month.

<u>New Construction</u>. Both contractors on Units 1 and 2 of the Moran-Yellowstone Approach (Jones and Company and Dooling Company) have moved equipment to their respective stations. The road surface has been bladed and water ditched and bypassed from the road surface. Wet and stormy weather slowed these operations.

Project 1-F3, G4, Repair to Canyon Slides and Washouts.--This project is being done by Park Service day labor. A small crew is reprocessing about one-half mile section of road from Canyon Junction to Canyon Hotel.

Construction projects active during the month consisted of:

Account 231.01, Repair Heating Plant, Building 34.--This job was done by contract and is 100 per cent complete.

Account 231.02, Repair Heating Plant, Building 13.--Under contract and work in progress.

Account 231.03, Reroff Building No. 20, Storage Shed.--Work 100 per cent complete.

Account 231.04, Reroof Building No. 21, Storage Shed.--Work 100 per cent complete.

Account 231.05, Reroof Building No. 22, Plumbing Shop.--Work 100 per cent complete.

Account 323.08 and 323.10, Walks, Barriers, Gratings and Signs in Thermal Areas.--Work 90 per cent complete.

Account 333.01, Campground Extensions, Fishing Bridge and Old Faithful.--Project 90 per cent complete.

Concessioners. Work started May 2 on the demolition of the Old Faithful swimming pool. The contract for the demolition of the pool was awarded to the Propane Company of Gardiner and it is expected that it will consume about 60 days to raze the building. The original Old Faithful swimming pool was constructed in 1914 and was operated by H. P. Brothers. On June 30, 1933, Mr. Hamilton bought out Mr. Brothers, reconstructed the pool and has operated it since that date except during the war years and last summer. The building is being removed at the request of the National Park Service. The contract for the removal made by Mr. C. A. Hamilton covers a cost of $13,400. The material and equipment resulting from the demolition will be salvaged.

The C. A. Hamilton Store at Lake was opened on May 3, the Old Faithful tourist cabins, cafeteria and garage, and the Haynes Mammoth Shop on May 10, the Haynes Shop at Old Faithful on May 18, the Fishing Bridge tourist cabins, cafeteria, repair shop, and the Haynes Shop at Fishing Bridge on May 25, the Canyon and Thumb tourist cabins and cafeterias on May 28, and the Mammoth Coffee Shop on May 29. Boats started operations at Yellowstone Lake on May 30 while the Haynes Store at Tower Fall opened May 31.

Chief of Concessions Management Donald E. Lee approved the Yellowstone Park Company rates for 1951 on May 9.

The Yellowstone Park Company moved its offices from Gardiner to Mammoth on May 13.

Mr. W. M. Nichols, President of the Yellowstone Park Company, paid a visit to the park on May 16. John Q. Nichols, Vice President of the Company, arrived in the park on May 20 and H. B. Brown, Superintendent of Hotels, on May 31.

A nurse was entered on duty at Old Faithful on May 16 by the Park Medical Service.

Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Hamilton arrived in the park on May 28.

Gasoline prices at all points in the park were changed on May 29 to 30½¢ per gallon for Regular and 32½¢ per gallon for Ethyl.

Religious Services and Chapel Use. The regular Yellowstone Park Sunday School activities were carried on in the Yellowstone Park Chapel during the month and were well attended by members of the community.

The Rev. E. A. Syms of Livingston, Montana, conducted non-denominational Protestant services in the Chapel on the evening of May 13 and the evening of the 27th. The services on the 27th will be the final services of the winter program to be given by Rev. Syms and future Protestant services which will be conducted in the Chapel will be held by the student ministers from the Princeton Seminary.

On Sunday evening, May 22, the Baccalaureate services for the Gardiner high school were held in the Yellowstone Park Chapel. Rev. Warren Strain of Livingston, Montana, delivered the Baccalaureate address.

The Yellowstone Park Church Committee met with the Park County Ministerial Association representatives in the conference room at park headquarters on May 14 for the purpose of reviewing Protestant services that will be conducted in Yellowstone Park during the 1951 season and at that time arranged to fit ministers of this group into the schedule.

Arrangements were completed for the student ministerial program for the 1951 season. Due to sudden illness, Rev. Warren Ost, who it was anticipated would direct the program, will be unable to participate but the Princeton Seminary has arranged to send Rev. Donald Bower and student ministers George Colman and Henry Strock. Mr. Bower will start these student ministers off with a Protestant service on June 10 and after getting them oriented on their program will leave the park and they will handle the program for the balance of the season.

Interpretive Services. Park Naturalist Matson presented a talk on May 16 to the Lincoln School in Livingston, Montana. He used movies and Kodaslides. The program was presented at 3:00 p.m. and his talk lasted about 40 minutes. There were 350 pupils who enjoyed this program.

On May 2 Mr. Grant Harris, professor at the Utah State Agricultural College, with a group of about 21 range management students visited the headquarters museum and Chief Park Naturalist Condon talked to this group about Yellowstone Park, some of its problems and its unique phenomena.

On May 12 Chief Park Naturalist Condon went to Butte, Montana, where he presented a program to the annual meeting of the Montana Society of Engineers in the Butte Country Club house. There were 134 members of this association in attendance.

On the 17th Chief Park Naturalist Condon presented a program on Yellowstone Park to the members of the National Federation of Federal Employees Montana State Convention at Bozeman, Montana. There were 40 people in attendance.

On the evening of the 26th Chief Park Naturalist Condon presented a program on Yellowstone National Park using motion pictures to the Absaroka Conservation Committee group in the headquarters canteen building. There were about 35 people present.

During the month considerable time was spent in working up information on signs for use in naming places and features of Yellowstone Park. This program was completed and submitted and signs have been ordered.

Plans for the program of interpretive activities for the 1951 season were completed and reviewed by the park naturalists and are now ready for placing into action by the entire staff as the season progresses.

Museum Activities and Exhibits. The wayside exhibits and the foyer exhibits at the Norris Museum were opened for public use on May 17. The Canyon exhibit at Artist Point was not ready for public use until May 31.

The Mammoth museum was opened to the public eight hours a day beginning May 13 and figures obtained from the register indicate that 1,500 or more people used the museum during the balance of the month.

On the 22nd, 23rd and 24th of the month members of the Division spent considerable time on a general cleanup of the headquarters museum basement, storage rooms and other facilities and a

general reorganization of these has placed them in readiness for summer use.

On May 22 a loan was made to Mr. Franz Lipp of the skulls of a birhorn sheep, Rocky Mountain mule deer and American bison. These are to be used in conjunction with the Franz Lipp exhibit at the Chicago Art Institute.

Research and Observation. On May 4 a large grizzly female with two of this year's cubs was observed crossing the highway between the Madison museum and the Terrace Spring. This was a beautiful animal and the two cubs appeared to be healthy, vigorous bears.

On May 5 seven antelope were observed in the sagebrush flats above Soda Butte on Soda Butte Creek. On this same trip 107 bison were counted, and in one herd of 43 animals observed on lower Slough Creek seven of these were this year's calves. Large numbers of elk were observed throughout the month on the northern winter elk range in the area from Mammoth as far out as Pebble Creek. On May 5 four coyotes were observed; three of them together on Pebble Creek and one in the Horseshoe area near Junction Butte.

Mr. Tom McHugh, who is working out of the Jackson Hole Wildlife Park, has been in Yellowstone several times during the month to make observations on Yellowstone Park bison herds in the Lamar Valley, Hayden Valley and the Lower Geyser Basin. Mr. McHugh is also photographing wildlife in 16mm color, 2x2 Kodachromes and with black and white film.

A historical landmark was removed on the 10th of May when the great old Douglasfir tree which leaned over the road on the approach to the upper terraces was cut down. This tree has for years provided inspiration to many who have viewed it and its stark silhouette against the cloud banked sky with the Jupiter Terrace in the foreground and the white, snow-capped Sheep Mountain as a background. The life of this tree has a very interesting story to tell.

On the 16th on a field trip to Old Faithful and return Park Naturalists Upton and Condon spent considerable time photographing a calf elk near the old Snow Pass road, and on this same day had a very unusual and interesting experience with a Richardson's grouse on the Old Fountain Freight road. The Richardson's grouse is not commonly seen in this area and it was indeed a surprise to have this bird act more like an old Plymouth Rock hen than a wild animal.

On the 21st a pair of trumpeter swan provided passers-by with a full day's entertainment. These swan had settled on a small pond at the lower end of Elk Park within 50 feet of the highway and there they remained all day long feeding, preening and otherwise

enjoying life. Sixteen mm. motion pictures, 2x2 Kodachromes and black and white film were taken of these birds and many cars stopped to watch while they were being photographed. They were observed at 7:30 in the morning, again later in the morning, they were photographed in the afternoon and upon returning from Old Faithful late in the evening they were still observed to be actively engaged in feeding in this small pond. It was not at all difficult to approach within 100 feet of the birds and a closer approach could probably have been made if it had not been for the fact that the water surface prevented it.

During the month in travels past Willow Park an increasing number of moose has been revealed frequenting that area and on the 11th seven animals were observed. Some still pictures and 16mm motion pictures have been made of animals in that area. One large bull moose was noted to have a broken ear which hangs down and flaps about, and because of this physical characteristic it will be possible for us to make observations on movements which this animal will undoubtedly make during the coming summer.

On May 14 Hot River below Mammoth took on a peculiar appearance and an investigation by Park Naturalist Watson revealed that the customary clear stream of hot water was very muddy and much cooler than normal. Photographs were made of it and it was decided that probably high water coming down Clematis Gulch on to the parade ground was flowing into one of the many caverns or holes there and finding access into the supply of water that feeds Hot River. At the end of the month this had cleared up.

On the 19th of May Park Naturalist Watson counted 97 bison in one herd near the mouth of Hellroaring Creek. Only three calves were identified in this group, but undoubtedly there were others present for Mr. Watson found it difficult to see calves since the point of observation was about two miles distant from the herd.

On the 25th while conducting the local Boy Scout Troop on a hike from Blacktail Deer Creek over Mt. Everts the group encountered a rather large prairie rattlesnake at an elevation of about 6,300 feet on the old Turkey Pen Trail on the south side of Rattlesnake Butte. This was one of the highest elevations that this particular species has been reported.

Of unusual interest this year has been the change in the activity of the Giant Geyser in the Upper Geyser Basin. This geyser, which for the past several seasons has erupted maybe once or twice, during the entire year, has been performing with remarkable regularity during May. As will be seen from the following table, it is almost amazing the close relationship in the interval of time for the eruptions of this geyser during May. It erupted a total of six times during the month.

GIANT GEYSER ERUPTIONS FOR MAY

| Date | Time of Eruption | Time Elapse Since Last Eruption |
|---|---|---|
| May 3 | 8:25 A.M. | |
| 5 | 1:00 P.M. | 2 days, 4½ hours |
| 10 | 4:00 P.M. | 5 days, 3 hours |
| 16 | 1:49 P.M. | 5 days, 22½ hours |
| 22 | 7:00 A.M. | 5 days, 18 hours |
| 27 | 10:00 P.M. | 5 days, 15 hours |

Natural History Association. The book stocks for field stations were assembled during the month by Park Naturalist Watson and the entire summer sales stock was taken to Old Faithful on May 21. The summer sales stock for Mammoth was placed in the storage area and publications placed on sale on May 13. Fishing Bridge stock was assembled and will be taken to the field right after June 1.

The Association employed Mrs. Alice Quist to serve as a seasonal clerk on May 28. Mrs. Quist will work four hours each day for six days a week and it is anticipated that with her help a great deal of work will be accomplished by the Association.

The power tools ordered by the Association in April arrived during May and have been placed in storage in the museum basement pending the development of space for a workshop. Tools acquired are: a tilting arbor table saw, a 5-inch joiner and planer, a good drill press, arbor with grinding wheels, an electrical hand drill and a 24-inch arm jig saw. With these tools it is anticipated that a fine museum workshop can be set up.

Yellowstone Park Nature Notes were edited and multilithed during May and will go out in the mail early in June.

Increase or Decrease in Travel. A total of 30,310 people entered the park in 9,329 vehicles as compared to 24,051 people in 8,396 vehicles during May last year for an increase of 26%. The increase in travel is attributed, largely, to the fact that the weather was far more favorable for travel this year and the roads were opened earlier. All roads in the park and the approach roads, with the exception of the Red Lodge-Cooke road, were open for public travel by May 28.

Visitors. Franz Lipp, nationally known photographer, who has just published a new portfolio containing a number of his best Yellowstone pictures, and Mr. William Strube of the Henry Regnery Publishing Company of Chicago, publishers of the portfolio, in May 22, out 24.

Congressman Wesley A. D'Ewart of Montana, Chairman of the Absaroka Conservation Committee, in May 27 to preside at this meeting; out 27.



Yellowstone Park, Wyoming

Ranger Service. The Ranger Conference and Fire School was held in Mammoth from May 8-11, for all Yellowstone rangers with other divisions contributing to the conference. Regional Forester Frank W. Childs and Soil Conservationist Fred F. Dickison, Region Two, and two rangers each from Glacier and Grand Teton National Parks attended; also James C. Evenden of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

All field stations were manned during the month to the limit of available personnel.

A new checking station manual was prepared for use this summer at entrance stations. The change from cash registers to sale of permits necessitated the preparation of the new manual.

Other activities included the supervision of trail maintenance, fish planting, removal of the sunken NPS Boat "Lollypop" from West Thumb to Lake Station dock, highway patrol and varied other problems arising caused by the arrival of park visitors.

Wildlife and Fish Cultural Activities. FISH. Inclement weather greeted anglers who visited the park on May 30 when the fishing season opened, but the Madison and Firehole Rivers and the lakes yielded fair catches. Numerous signs had been placed to inform fishermen of the special regulation, in effect for the first time this year, permitting the use of only artificial flies in Squaw Lake, the Madison River, Firehole River and Gibbon River below Gibbon Falls.

Following is a tabulation of fish planted in park waters in May:

| Species | Size | Stream or lake | Hatchery | Number |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Loch leven | 3" | Gardiner River #1 | Emigrant | 10,800 |
| Rainbow | yearling | Gardiner River #1 | Emigrant | 10,000 |
| Rainbow | yearling | Slide Lake | Emigrant | 5,000 |
| Rainbow | yearling | Madison River | Ennis | 35,000 |

Hatchery Superintendent William Dunn arrived at Yellowstone Lake on April 25 and immediately began repairing boats and the boatway tracks. He made the first trip to Peale Island on May 25. Fish traps have been placed in Chipmunk and Pelican Creeks. A total of 17 men was engaged by Mr. Dunn by the end of May. Dr. A. B. Cope and an assistant continued the investigation of the fish spawning in streams tributary to Yellowstone Lake. They have installed a fish trap on Arnica Creek and two men are collecting information on fish ascending that stream. They are conducting a creel census and are attempting to collect additional information regarding the success of fishermen who use boats on Yellowstone Lake.

BEARS. Four reports of property damage caused by bears were received in May, and one person reported being bitten by a roadside bear. Two black bears, which proved to be vicious and could not be driven away or trapped, were destroyed. One troublesome bear, which had broken into the National Park Service mess hall at Madison Junction, was trapped and removed to a more remote part of the park. The three improved two-wheel trailer bear traps were put into service.

RODENT CONTROL. In accordance with previous recommendations of the Public Health Service, control of ground squirrels and marmots was continued in developed areas and particularly around buildings. A total of 652 ground squirrels were shot in the Lamar, Mammoth, Tower Fall and Old Faithful districts. It was necessary to destroy 18 marmots which were around buildings at Old Faithful.

ELK. After mid-month large numbers of elk were seen in Hayden Valley, Pelican Creek Valley and other summer range areas. Prior to that time practically all of the animals in the northern Yellowstone herd were distributed over the intermediate and upper portions of the winter range although some elk were seen on the lower parts of that range.

Montana Fish and Game Department personnel, under the direction of Biologist Gaab, commenced elk calf tagging operations in the Gallatin area on May 22 and in the vicinity of Mammoth on May 28.

Forest Fire Protection. Job descriptions for the Permanent Squad Leader, GS-6, Smokejumper position and the four Smokejumper, GS-5, positions were prepared and submitted for approval and establishment.

The fire training school for Protection Division personnel was held May 10 and 11. One day was devoted to classroom discussions of various fire topics and one day was spent in the field on actual demonstrations.

Several declinations were received during the month from fire control aids who had previously accepted work. This can, no doubt, be attributed to the general unstability in the present labor situation.

Blister Rust Control. Heavy snows crushed a portion of the Blister Rust Storehouse at Canyon. Emergency funds, amounting to $1,000, were requested and received for reconstruction of this building as it is urgently needed for carrying out the Blister Rust program this season.

Six new Siren Pumps were purchased for use in spray operations for Ribes eradication. Replacement parts for the Hi-Fog applicators were also purchased.

Trails. Four men have been employed during most of the month on trail maintenance in the Mammoth District, and by the end of the month the majority of the trails in this district had been cleared and placed in fairly good condition. Snow depths in the higher elevations prevented any trail maintenance work in these areas. The trail men will move to other districts next month and it is planned that most of the trails, except the high country, can be cleared and lightly maintained by June 30. However, due to limited funds only part of the trails can be worked on this fiscal year.

Considerable difficulty has been experienced in securing qualified trail men to work this year. A number of men have declined after promising to report for duty. Some difficulty is expected in hiring good men to work in the more remote sections of the park after July 1, when the major trail work program will be started.

Grounds. A small crew of men has been employed all month in removing the protective fences from the shrubbery and preparing the grounds for the summer. The power lawn mowers were repaired and put in good condition for summer use. By the end of the month the lawns were in fairly good condition.

On May 2 Packer Foreman Robert Condie was transferred from Lamar Unit to Mammoth to again be in direct supervision of the Grounds Maintenance work.

Building Fire Protection. Building fire inspections of all Government buildings were being made as the field stations were manned and the buildings were being occupied. Minor hazards were taken care of, as completely as possible, at the time of the inspections and the more serious ones will be reported to the proper division head for action.

A comparatively large number of carbon tetrachloride plunger type fire extinguishers were found inoperative. Part of them were clogged at the discharge opening particularly in the areas subject to fumes from the geyser basins while others were beyond repair. Experience has indicated that this type extinguisher is unsatisfactory and unreliable for use around the hot spring areas due to corrosive action. Our limited experience with the "beer can type extinguisher" has proven it to be more reliable and effective than the various plunger type carbon tetrachloride ones. However, new plunger type carbon tetrachloride extinguishers will be purchased to the limit of available funds this coming month.

Some of the concessioner buildings have been inspected this month and the remainder will be inspected in June as they gradually open up for the season. Mr. Jack Owens, fire marshal for the Yellowstone Park Company, arrived during the month and has conferred with park officials concerning fire hazards, safety and the establishing of fire brigades at the various establishments for the approaching park



Yellowstone National Park

visitor season. Mr. Owens has been very helpful and cooperative in the past and has accomplished much in improving the fire protection and safety in the Company buildings.

The purchase of the Eastman Evacuator, which was mentioned last month, has been temporarily held up pending clearance from the prison industries.

Accidents and Public Safety. Five motor vehicle accidents were reported during the month, three being Class "A" and two Class "B", and none of them involving Government vehicles.

Minor injuries were suffered in two of the accidents. One accident was caused by a tree falling across the top of a car as it was traveling during a high wind storm causing considerable damage to the car but only slightly injuring the occupants.

Law Enforcement. There were no law enforcement cases during the month. U. S. Commissioner T. Paul Wilcox returned to the park on May 27 to resume his duties here after having been away from the park since last fall.

Deaths. Mrs. Josephine Davis, sister of Assistant Superintendent Johnston, died at Altadena, California, on May 6. Funeral services were held on May 8 and Mr. and Mrs. Johnston went to Altadena for the services.

Births. A 7-pound son was born to Park Ranger and Mrs. Louis Gunzel at Missoula on May 13. Mr. Gunzel entered on duty as a permanent Park Ranger on May 7.

Twins, a boy and girl, were born to Mr. and Mrs. Lemely Oates at the Park Hospital in Livingston on May 13. Mr. Oates was employed as a permanent Blacksmith beginning April 9, 1951.

Marriages. Chief Park Ranger Curtis K. Skinner was married in Las Vegas, Nevada, on May 18, to Miss Elizabeth H. Emery of Los Angeles, California. The bride is employed as Secretary to the Manager of the Western Division of RKO Radio Pictures in Los Angeles and expects to move to the park the latter part of June.

Personnel. Genevieve McCabe entered on duty as seasonal Clerk-Stenographer, GS-3 on May 1; Francis E. Wilkes, as seasonal Project Clerk, GS-4 on May 21; Glyndon G. Abbie, as seasonal Messenger, CPC-1 on May 24; James E. Watt and Thomas D. Ellis, as seasonal Storekeepers (General), GS-3 on May 28; Geraldine M. Lindquist, as seasonal Clerk-Stenographer, GS-3 on May 28. Several seasonal Park Rangers and Park Ranger Naturalists entered on duty during the month.

Shirley Wohlbrandt, seasonal Clerk-Stenographer, GS-3 resigned at the close of business May 25.

Louis L. Gunzel entered on duty as permanent Park Ranger, GS-5, on May 7 and Carl J. Gruener and Thomas H. Schoder entered on duty in similar positions on May 21.

The transfer of Charles E. Fuller, Fiscal Accountant, GS-7, to the position of Chief Clerk, Carlsbad Caverns National Park, GS-8, was approved May 8. Mr. Fuller left the park on May 29 and will enter on duty at Carlsbad on June 1.

William W. Walton, Mixed Gang Foreman (seasonal), who has been a Foreman in Yellowstone National Park since 1934, resigned due to disability at the close of business May 14.

Boris T. Vladimiroff, Park Ranger, GS-5, was transferred to the position of Forester (Timber Management), GS-7, Bureau of Land Management, Portland, Oregon, on May 15.

On May 15 we received notice of the promotion and transfer (indefinite) of Robert S. Luntey, Park Ranger, GS-5, to the position of Administrative Assistant, GS-7, Washington Office, effective April 29, 1951.

On May 22 the park received advice that Frank F. Kowski, Supervisory Park Ranger (District Park Ranger), GS-7, had been selected for the position of Training and Employment Officer, GS-9, Washington Office. Mr. Kowski expects to leave Yellowstone about the middle of June and report for duty in Washington on July 2.

Almon E. Dewing, Mechanic (Heavy Duty), Ungraded, has been selected for transfer to the position of Shop Foreman, Ungraded, at Mount Rainier National Park. Mr. Dewing expects to report at Mount Rainier about July 1

Miscellaneous. The regular monthly meeting of the Federal Employees Union Local No. 465 was held in the Canteen on May 7. Assistant Regional Director Lloyd of the Region Two Office talked to the group. The Local sponsored the spring dance held in the Canteen on May 11 following the Protection Division Conference. The Montana State Convention of the National Federation of Federal Employees was held in Bozeman on May 18 and 19. Messrs. Kowski, Carr, Condon and Fillmore represented the Yellowstone Local at the meeting.

The regular monthly meeting of the American Federation of Government Employees local was held in the Canteen on May 21.

Fred T. Johnston
Acting Superintendent

cc Region Two, in quintuple
Files (2)
JJoffe:ekm

Files (2)
llotte:cdm